

APPROVED: Meeting No. 23-83

ATTEST: *Helen M. Heneghan*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEETING NO. 20-83

June 2, 1983

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in work session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Street, Rockville Maryland on Thursday, June 2, 1983, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor John R. Freeland

Councilman Steve Abrams

Councilwoman Viola Hovsepian

Councilman John Tyner, II
(arrived at 7:45 p.m.)

ABSENT

Councilman Douglas Duncan
(on travel leave)

The Mayor in the Chair.

In attendance: City Manager Larry Blick; City Clerk Helen Heneghan

The Mayor and Council continued their review of the proposed operating budget.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Animal Control

Cora Alter, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Animal Control Task Force, briefed the Council on the Force's final recommendations. They are as follows:

- 1) Increased funding for a part-time secretary and/or part-time help to assist the Animal Control Secretary.

Estimated Cost \$5,000

- 2) Funding for a 1-page rabies alert flyer

Estimated cost \$ 425

- 3) Short-term, four month trapping program

Estimated cost \$7,000

- 4) Expansion of Animal Census to include all owned dogs, cats, exotic animals and livestock.

Estimated cost \$ 250

- 5) Enforcement of Quarantine procedures

Estimated cost \$ 0

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- 6) Wildlife monitoring program
Estimated cost \$ 0
- 7) In-service training program for Animal Control personnel
Estimated cost \$ 250
- 8) Establishment of a formal public education program
Estimated cost \$2,000
- 9) Status report by City staff in six months
Estimated cost \$ 0
- 10) Poster Contest with FONZ memberships as prizes
Estimated cost \$ 0
- 11) Contingency
Estimated cost \$ 500

Chief Stout concurred in the recommendations. Councilman Abrams questioned the establishment of a formal public education program. It was his feeling that the City's doing this could cause other jurisdictions to abdicate their responsibility. There was no agreement for this idea. \$15,000 was added to the wish list since the alert flyer in item number 2 has already been printed.

Police Activities

The Mayor and Council requested the reasoning for doing away with the back up personnel. Chief Stout explained the necessity when the program was instituted due to incapacity or illness. That is not the case now. Councilman Tyner asked if in the fall the Mayor and Council might have the benefit of Chief Stout's professional view of the extent of the police services that are necessary in a City of this size indicating where the City should be heading since development is continuous. It was suggested that there might be some provision for conferring with new developers to outline some type of safety program. Chief Stout asked that \$250 be added to contribute to the County's Dial-a-Ride holiday program. He also asked for \$250 for Neighborhood Watch sign replacement to be placed on the wish list. Councilman Tyner asked what is being done about a Public Safety Commission as had been recommended by ARC political group. Councilwoman Hovsepian said this came as news to her. She said she would prefer to wait and see. Additional commissions being set up use additional staff but she would be happy if it would serve a useful function. Mayor Freeland said he had addressed this question to the Fire Safety Board and if they get back with a positive recommendation he would favor it, however the commission might be an item for next year's budget.

Code Enforcement

The discussion followed with the Mayor and Council and Paul Radauskas on the various areas of enforcement of codes, how they are handled and what remedies are useful to keep the City looking as it should. Councilwoman Hovsepian asked if the Council might see a chart of the staff's time spent working with shopping center people since it necessitates so many calls back. Mr. Radauskas brought up the problem of unlicensed vehicles on private property. The Mayor agreed that something should be changed in the procedure since so much time is spent

Code Enforcement continued

to no avail. Councilman Tyner asked if the Mayor and Council could have an indication of the efforts spent on professional staff development, training meetings, etc. He said he would recommend it as a budget line item in this department and others. The Mayor agreed and said it would be useful to show the citizens that in various categories, City employees are being kept up to the state of the art.

Housing Code

The Council made no change.

Building Construction Codes

Questions were addressed to the permit procedure and policy. The City Manager will get back to the Council with information on the process. It was the Council's desire that the landlord/tenant procedures be set for an agenda and a future work session. There should be no budgetary impact and if there are, adjustments could be made at mid-year if necessary.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Financial Administration

Mr. Lawton briefed the Council on the bond rating procedure and what steps the City is taking for the next bond issue.

Information Systems

Mr. Lawton explained to the Council that the payroll should be on the City's system in the late summer. He gave the Council a financial systems update. Councilman Tyner reiterated his request for a systems list in priority order. He said it would be helpful if the Mayor and Council could look at the applications that were proposed and decide which ones should be done or prioritize the list. This is the only way the Mayor and Council can make a decision as to where the City is going with its information system. The Mayor agreed and said it should not be too difficult to show a five-year projection of where we are and where we are going and how much it will cost to get there. Councilman Tyner noted that the original RFP showed systems for all departments. It would be a good time to have a professional opinion of whether or not they are necessary. Councilwoman Hovsepien asked what progress is being made on the contract, or bonus system that had been recommended by the Finance Director and approved by the Council. Mr. Lawton said it had been found that there were more disadvantages than advantages to that program.

This concluded the proposed operating budget discussions. The Council will proceed to the wish list at another session.

Re: Review of Capital
Improvement Program

Mr. Olson explained that \$19,000 additional Program Open Space funding was to be added to the original \$86,000 budget. Councilwoman Hovsepien introduced a discussion on the Methodist Church property for use as a park for recreation. She suggested this might be the use of Open Space funds. Mayor Freeland said it might be necessary to use the City's cash in order to purchase and maintain

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any equipment, but it would be a good idea to go to the Church and negotiate an option arrangement or some type of lease purchase agreement. That way the City could install play area, gardens, etc. for the next five years, taking anxiety from the neighborhood and then act at the end of five years when funds are more available. Councilwoman Hovsepian asked for Council's authorization for the staff to go and talk to the Church. She said she would not like to see a lot of homes built there. The Mayor suggested the staff might do so. Councilman Tyner said he was reluctant to proceed with authorization for an expenditure until the money answers are given. He said it would also be necessary to address the age makeup of the neighborhood to see if a park is necessary. Mayor Freeland suggested that the Mayor and Council must make a judgment of which way to proceed. There are many people in that neighborhood concerned with further density. Councilman Abrams asked the staff to get a property status update since the question could be moot and bring that back along with other pertinent data about the neighborhood so that the Council can then proceed.

RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME SERVICES

R-1 - Works of Art in Public Places

Councilman Abrams introduced the possibility of the use of \$60,000 in funds for a statue of F. Scott Fitzgerald. He showed samples to the Council of a sculpture that was submitted. The Cultural Arts Commission at this time has some problems with the proposal. They feel it is not appropriate for the Fitzgerald Triangle at the intersection, but they would like to look into the idea of it being accomplished in another way. Maybe even a gate at a Metro station. Councilman Tyner questioned the process of the projects originating in other sources than the Cultural Arts Commission itself. The City Manager explained the two processes that exist - 1) the ordinance on 1% and 2) the dollar per capita program. He explained that all works of art that the Cultural Arts Commission recommends have to be approved since only the Mayor and Council can expend the funds. Mayor Freeland suggested a conversation be held with the Cultural Arts Commission about the process, after which decisions can be made.

R-103 - F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre Stage Expansion

Discussion followed by the Council concerning improvements to the theatre. Councilman Tyner suggested the projects of both the fly space and catwalk etc. be combined and put to the same year's funding as they were in last year's CIP. Councilman Abrams suggested design for FY 85 and construction for FY 86. However, he will be pursuing State funding. It was finally agreed to place a \$1.68 million fund in for the combined projects and ask the State for the funds. Councilwoman Hovsepian suggested in the meantime the user groups be asked to look into the use of the College stage while construction would be underway.

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R-200 - Broome Athletic Park

The Council made no change.

R-204 - Woottons Mill Park - Phase III

The Council made no change.

R-216 - Veirs Mill Road Landscaping

The Council made no change.

R-218 - Dawson Farm Park

The Council made no change.

R-223 - Montrose Park Tennis Court

The Council made no change.

R-224 - Six Parks - Play Equipment

The Council made no change.

TRANSPORTATION

T-700 - Bikeways

The Mayor suggested this project be deleted. Councilman Tyner agreed. Councilwoman Hovsepian said she would like more information before she removes the project. The City Manager asked that it be left in until more information is brought to the Council.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council in work session, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m. to convene again in work session on Monday, June 6, 1983, at 8:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.